

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SYDNEY 02122 040804Z

14

ACTION EA-14

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INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 OMB-01 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00

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FM AMCONSUL SYDNEY

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4828

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL BRISBANE

AMCONSUL PERTH

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EO 11652 ADS, DECLAS 12-31-73

TAGS: PINT, AS

SUBJ: MINISTER CAIRNS SPEECH TO SYDNEY AMCHAM

REF: SYDNEY 2121

SUMMARY

1. DR. CAIRNS GAVE AN UNUSUALLY ACADEMIC TALK ON THE PRE-ANNOUNCED TOPIC "AUSTRALIA NAD AMERICAN IN THE PACIFIC", WHICH HE CHANGED TO "A REASSESSMENT OF COMMUNISM AND IMPERIALISM". HE STRESSED THAT MODERN IMPERIALISM SHOULD NOT BE ECONOMIC AND MILITARY, BUT SOCIAL AND POLITICAL. THE ROLE OF THE MULTI-NATIONAL CORPORATION MUST BE USED FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PEOPLE OF THE THIRD WORLD AND SHOULD NOT BE USED FOR ECONOMIC GAIN, BUT TO HELP ADVANCEMENT OF UNDEVELOPED COUNTRIES. BOTH IN A PRIVATE CONVERSATION AND IN PUBLIC HE SEEMED IMPRESSED WITH THE SCHEDULED FIFTEEN MINUTE APPOINTMENT WITH AMBASSADOR GREEN ON AUGUST 30 WHICH LASTED FOR ONE AND ONE QUARTER HOURS.

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PAGE 02 SYDNEY 02122 040804Z

END SUMMARY.

2. DR. CAIRNS, SPEAKING FROM TEN PAGES OF HANDWRITTEN NOTES, GAVE A SCHOLARLY DISCUSSION OF THE IDEOLOGY AND DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNISM BY MARX. POINTING OUT THAT ALTHOUGH AMERICANS AND ENGLISH HAD ALWAYS TAKEN ISSUE WITH MARX'S COLLECTIVISM, NEVERTHELESS THEY HAD ADOPTED HIS PRINCIPLES IN DOING AWAY WITH IMPERIALISM IN THE OLD TRADITIONAL SENSE.

3. HE STRESSED THAT WITH RUSSIA AND THE UNITED STATES COMING TO AN AGREEMENT ON CONTROL OF NUCLEAR ARMS, THERE WAS NO REASON FOR BRITAIN OR FRANCE TO TEST ATOMIC WEAPONS. HE IMPLIED THAT THE MAIN JOB WAS TO KEEP "YOUR FRIENDS IN NEW YORK" FROM HELPING CERTAIN COUNTRIES (BY IMPLICATION ISRAEL) FROM DEVELOPING ATOMIC CAPABILITIES. CAIRNS SAID THAT WE SHOULD NOT STRESS IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES BUT THAT PRAGMATISM MUST BE THE ORDER OF THE DAY. HE COMMENTED THAT HE IS KNOWN FOR PUTTING THE CASE FOR COMMUNISM BUT WHAT IS OVERLOOKED IS THAT HE EQUALLY PUTS THE CASE FOR UNITED STATES.

NOTING THAT IT WAS TOO BAD OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT SOURCES HAD NOT PUBLICIZED THE US REFUSAL OF RUSSIA'S REQUEST TO COLLABORATE AGAINST CHINA, HE PLEADED FOR MORE FRANKNESS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS OF VARIOUS COUNTRIES.

4. IN HIS SPEECH, THE MINISTER REFERRED TO HIS MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR GREEN ON AUGUST 30, A MEETING WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS "A FIFTEEN MINUTE APPOINTMENT WHICH LASTED FOR ONE AND ONE QUARTER HOURS", AND DURING WHICH THE AMBASSADOR HAD PUT MANY PROBING AND INTERESTING QUESTIONS TO HIM. IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH CONGEN OFFICERS, DR. CAIRNS SAID THAT HE HAD REGRETTED NOT MEETING AMBASSADOR GREEN SOON AFTER CAIRNS RETURNED FROM SOUTH EAST ASIA SIX WEEKS AGO, BECAUSE HE WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GIVE THE AMBASSADOR FRESHER OPINIONS AND IDEAS REFLECTING HIS VISIT.

5. DR. CAIRNS IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS SAID HE AGREED THAT MULTI-NATIONAL CORPORATIONS CAN DO GOOD IN ALL COUNTRIES. THEY MUST TAKE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF GIVING PEOPLE IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES WHAT THEY REALLY NEED, IN SPITE OF WHAT THE PEOPLE THINK THEY NEED, OR OTHERWISE MUST ACCEPT THE FACT THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 SYDNEY 02122 040804Z

GOVERNMENTS WILL DICTATE WHAT THE MULTINATIONALS SHOULD PROVIDE. DR. CAIRNS ALSO PLEADED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD ONLY EIGHT MONTHS TO FORMULATE NEW POLICIES AFTER "THE OTHER CROWD" HAD BEEN IN FOR TWENTY-THREE YEARS, AND THAT IT WOULD NEED TWELVE TO EIGHTEEN MONTHS TO REALLY DECIDE POLICY AND THE DIRECTION IT IS GOING. HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WELCOMES SUGGESTIONS AND IDEAS FROM AMERICAN COMPANIES ON ITS FUTURE DIRECTION BUT AMERICAN COMPANIES MUST FACE THE FACT THAT THERE WILL BE MORE AUSTRALIAN

INFLUENCE ON THEIR DIRECTION, AND THE GOVERNMENT WILL DECIDE ON THE PRIORITIES FOR AUSTRALIA.

COMMENT

6. DR. CAIRNS SPOKE AS AN ACADEMICIAN WHO APPEARED TO BE LECTURING HIS COLLEGE ECONOMIC CLASS IN BASIC CARINS PHILOSOPHY. HE WAS CAREFUL NOT TO BE OFFENSIVE TO AMERICAN COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES, BUT SHOCKED MOST HIS AUDIENCE WITH HIS OPENING REMARKS IN THE DEFENSE OF COMMUNISM AS IT RELATES TO BUSINESS INTERESTS. MANY COMMENTS FROM AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN STRESSED THAT CAIRNS HAD BEEN "COPPING OUT" ON REALLY SAYING WHAT HE STOOD FOR AND WAS TRYING TO PLACATE HIS AMERICAN AUDIENCE. HIS REMARKS ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT NEEDING MORE TIME TO DECIDE POLICY CONTRADICTED THE PRIME MINISTER WHO THE EVENING BEFORE IN SYDNEY SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES SHOULD BE CLEAR BY NOW (SEE REFTTEL). HE ALSO STREERED CLEAR OF PARTISAN POLITICS EXCEPT A JAB AT OPPOSITION LEADER SNEDDEN WHO, HE ASSERTED, DISTORTED REMARKS MADE BY CHINESE OFFICIALS DURING SNEDDEN'S VISIT TO PRC EARLIER THIS YEAR, THUS "THROWING SAND IN THE DIPLOMATIC WHEELS."

DR. CAIRNS SEEMED VERY PLEASED WITH AMBASSADOR GREEN'S VISIT ON AUGUST 30 AND ONE GAINED THE IMPRESSION THAT HE WOULD ENJOY FRANKER, PRIVATE AND MORE PERSONAL VISITS FROM THE AMBASSADOR. HE TWICE EMPHASIED A REMARK BY AMBASSADOR GREEN TO THE EFFECT THERE WRERE SEVERAL GOVERNMENT CABINET OFFICIALS WHO SPOKE "OUT OF THEIR FIELD", WITH AMBASSADOR GREEN ASSURING DR. CAIRNS THE AMBASSADOR WAS NOT SPEAKING ABOUT HIM.

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